November 11–18, 2019
Oaxaca, Mexico
A Winter Cultural Getaway
with Matthew Wettergreen
Explore the beautiful city of Oaxaca and its surrounding towns, known for the beauty of their architecture, richness of culture, and soft temperate climate.

Explore the well-preserved history of the Mixtec and Zapotec pre-Hispanic civilizations—two of the largest indigenous populations in Mexico—in outstanding museums and ceremonial centers such as the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Monte Albán and the famous Mitla palace complex. Observe the influence of Spanish colonization in the architecture of the zócalo and surrounding city center. Experience present-day Oaxaca and admire its rich and varied crafts at meetings with artisans who preserve traditional techniques, including potters, weavers, candlemakers, and carvers. Along the way, enjoy a culinary journey of local specialties, including chocolate, mole, and mescal tastings.

Study Leader

Travel with Matthew Wettergreen

MATTHEW WETTERGREEN has a formal education in bioengineering with a specialization in biomechanics and organ printing and an informal education in non-profit/arts management and marketing, community organizing, and digital strategy. He is currently a lecturer at Rice University in the OEDK working with undergraduate education in engineering, mentoring undergraduate students in engineering design projects, and instructing students in the physical prototyping of objects. Dr. Wettergreen earned his Ph.D. in Bioengineering from Rice University and a B.S. in Bioengineering from the University of Illinois at Chicago.
This custom travel program has been created uniquely for Rice Traveling Owls.

Monday, November 11, 2019
**Arrival in Oaxaca**
Fly to Oaxaca on independent flights. A group transfer will be available (time to be advised in your travel documents). Check into the charming and centrally located Hostal de la Noria hotel, and retire for the evening.

*Hostal de la Noria*

Tuesday, November 12, 2019
**Oaxaca’s Historic Center**
Today, familiarize yourself with the city of Oaxaca. Begin at the Santo Domingo Church, whose severe façade is in contrast to the exuberant baroque interior. Next, enjoy an in-depth guided tour of the Oaxacan Cultures Museum. This museum houses a vast collection of historical, archaeological, and ethnographic objects. Meander through the festive zócalo, Oaxaca’s lively city center, to the governmental palace. Here, view outstanding murals by Arturo Bustos, which depict the struggles of Oaxaca’s independence. After lunch, explore the colorful city market, and then stop at a renowned chocolate mill for a demonstration of chocolate making. This evening, enjoy dinner together at a nearby restaurant.

*Hostal de la Noria (B, L, D)*

Wednesday, November 13, 2019
**Monte Albán, Bajaj Factory & Glass Studio**
Spend a full morning exploring the dramatic archaeological site of Monte Albán, the capital city of the Zapotec nation and an important ceremonial center. Continue to Taller de Arte Papel Oaxaca, a paper factory recently founded by Francisco Toledo. Following lunch, enjoy a special visit to the Bajaj Production Plant, a global two- and three-wheeler manufacturing company, to learn about the fascinating assembly process. Next, visit Studio Xaquixe, a glass workshop where every piece is made of recycled glassware from local village communities and fired from ovens powered by recycled oil. Join an optional Dutch-treat dinner in a nearby restaurant.

*Hostal de la Noria (B, L)*

Thursday, November 14, 2019
**Mitla, Textiles, ‘El Tule’ & Mescal**
Spend the morning exploring the archaeological site of Mitla, an important Mixtec ceremonial center. At the nearby textile market, examine the handwoven jackets, tablecloths, and bed covers that are decorated with the ancient designs found at Mitla. Enjoy a photo stop of a prehistoric rock carving visible from the road that reveals the prehistoric caves of Yagul and Mitla, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In Teotitlán del Valle, join a Zapotec family of local weavers who will host a luncheon of regional specialties followed by a presentation of their work.
with wool. Meet a candlestick maker who will demonstrate how ceremonial candles are made. Continue to Lambityeco to see the small-excavated portion of Yegui, a large buried town dotted with hundreds of unexcavated mounds. Visit Ranchero Zapata to learn about mescal production. Stop to see the world-famous tree ‘El Tule,’ which is one of the biggest trees in the world. Return to Oaxaca for an evening at leisure.

Hostal de la Noria (B, L)

Friday, November 15, 2019

Village of Ocotlán

This morning, visit the Zapotec village of Ocotlán and learn about the late Rodolfo Morales, an artist who dedicated his resources to restoring Ocotlán. See his magnificent murals in the town hall, view the town’s beautiful church, and visit the whimsical Popular Arts Museum, which houses outstanding paintings by Morales and other local artisans. Enjoy free time to explore the Ocotlán market. Visit the studio of a local artist and see her brightly painted ceramic figures that depict everyday life in Mexico. Also stop in a textile village famous for weavers with back strap looms. Following lunch, continue to San Martin Tilcajete to see woodcarvings by village artisans. Finish in San Bartolo Coyotepec, a town made famous by Dona Rosa Real de Nieto, renowned for her Mexican black pottery, and whose work is now in museum collections. Gather this evening for a reception with the director of a gallery responsible for showcasing Francisco Toledo’s works.

Hostal de la Noria (B, L, R)

Saturday, November 16, 2019

Rufino Tamayo’s Archaeological Collection

This morning, visit the Museo Rufino Tamayo, an immense collection of priceless artifacts representing the artistic developments of the pre-Hispanic era, once owned by artist Rufino Tamayo. Then walk to the Ex-Convento de San Pablo, funded by philanthropist Alfredo Harp Helú, who restored parts of a church and built a beautiful multistory learning center and textile museum. The afternoon is at leisure to explore Oaxaca independently. In the late afternoon, join an optional outing to a mescal bar to sample different varieties.

Hostal de la Noria (B)

Sunday, November 17, 2019

A Day at Leisure in Oaxaca

Enjoy a full day for independent explorations. This evening, bid adiós to Oaxaca during a farewell dinner in a memorable location.

Hostal de la Noria (B, D)

Monday, November 18, 2019

Return to the U.S.

Following an early breakfast, take a group transfer to the Oaxaca airport to meet your independent flights back home.

Hostal de la Noria (B)
Tour Information

TOUR COST

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<th>Land Package</th>
<th>Single Supplement</th>
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<td>$2,995</td>
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| Tour price is per person based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 15 paying participants. Land prices are calculated as of February 2019 and are subject to change. |

DATES | November 11–18, 2019

ACTIVITY LEVEL | Moderate, good walking ability

DEPOSIT & FINAL PAYMENT

A deposit of $1,000 per paying participant is required to guarantee participation in the program. This deposit may be paid by check or by Visa or MasterCard. Final payment will be invoiced and is due on Friday, August 2, 2019, by check only to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrants will be accepted beyond this date on a space-available basis with payment in full by check only.

FLIGHTS | Participants are responsible for all aspects of their air arrangements, round-trip into and out of Oaxaca.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI) acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations, and all other services relating to this tour. ISDI, the Association of Rice Alumni, and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity, which may be caused by any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus, or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of the tour. ISDI and the Association of Rice Alumni reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason including insufficient numbers of participants, as well as the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time. If bookings fall below the minimum required, passengers will be advised of additional costs or itinerary alterations before departure date.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

All cancellations must be received in writing by ISDI, and charges are calculated as of the day notification is received in writing by ISDI. If a tour member cancels, the following scale of charges is incurred: There is a non-refundable administrative fee of $500 per person. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before August 2, 2019: full refund minus $300 per person administrative fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI from August 3, 2019 to September 27, 2019: full refund of any recoverable land costs, less $1,500 per person cancellation charge (includes administrative fee). Written cancellation received by ISDI on or after September 28, 2019: no refund. After the tour has commenced, it is not possible to issue any refunds. No refunds are issued for any unused portion of the tour including, but not limited to, occasional missed meals or sightseeing tours. Costs for promotion, staff, and other group expenses are not refundable. If due to weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors you are required to spend an additional night, you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers, and meal costs. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not accepted. The tour cost is non-transferable. Tour cancellation, baggage, and medical insurance is strongly recommended. A confirmation letter and travel insurance application will be mailed to you upon receipt of your deposit.

TOUR PRICE INCLUSIONS

Seven (7) nights accommodations at the Hostal de la Noria (doubles in junior suites; singles in standard rooms; upgrades available upon request); breakfast daily, four (4) lunches, two (2) dinners, one (1) reception, 2 glasses of wine or beer at dinners; one group airport transfer on arrival and departure as outlined; land transportation by private motorcoach as outlined; entrance fees to sites per itinerary; leadership of Rice University lecturer Matthew Wettergreen; services of an ISDI Tour Manager; expert, local English-speaking guides; gratuities to local guides and drivers; bottled water daily; taxes, services, and porterage fees.

TOUR PRICE EXCLUSIONS

Airfare, airline taxes, and fuel surcharges; airport porterage; excursions, activities, or meals during traveler’s free time; personal items; personal services; travel extensions; personal insurance for health, baggage and tour cancellation; passport fees; visa fees; gratuities for hotel housekeeping staff.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

The purchase of trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Travel insurance information will be emailed to you from the Traveling Owls upon receipt of your registration.

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See the Bajaj Automotive Factory, a global two- and three-wheeler manufacturing company.

Visit an innovative glass studio that recycles broken glass and uses discarded cooking oil to fuel the equipment used to blow the glass.

Enjoy a special lunch hosted by a Zapotec family of weavers in their home.

Admire the rich and varied crafts of Oaxaca during meetings with a variety of local artisans who preserve traditional techniques, including potters, weavers, candlemakers, and carvers.

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